

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C. 20554

FCC 83-177
33175

In the Matter of)
) CC Docket No. 78-50
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR)
THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED)

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Adopted April 27, 1983 ; Released May 3, 1983

By the Commission: *Commissioner Jones absent.*

I. Introduction

1. This inquiry was instituted in February 1978 in order to examine the telecommunications needs of the deaf and the hearing impaired, the adequacy of existing telecommunications services for such persons, and the feasibility of improving such services. 67 FCC 2d 1602 (1978). In view of the Telecommunications for the Disabled Act of 1982, Public Law 97-410, 97th Cong., 2d Sess., signed into law on January 3, 1983, and due to changed circumstances we are terminating this proceeding. See Access to Telecommunications Equipment by the Hearing Impaired and Other Disabled Persons, CC Docket No. 83-427, FCC 83-176 (adopted April 27, 1983)-(Disabled NPRM).

2. We initiated this proceeding in Docket 78-50 to obtain information which would be of assistance in exercising our statutory responsibility to determine what actions, if any, were feasible to foster additional use of communications services by the disabled. The notice also stated that this inquiry would provide "a nationwide forum whereby communications common carriers and other vendors of communications related equipment could interact with the deaf community in order to better understand their communications needs" and could provide a repository for comments with respect to research efforts which have been or might be undertaken to improve telecommunications services for the deaf and the hearing impaired.

3. We have received a substantial number of formal and informal comments which are of significant value to all individuals and organizations that may be concerned with the telecommunications needs of the deaf and the hearing impaired. 1/ See Appendix A for list of commenting parties. Many parties have noted that the telecommunications

1/ These comments are available for public inspection in the Docket Reference Room in the Commission's Offices at 1919 M Street, N. W., Washington, D.C.